



## Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2023

### 7,383: The Second Nuclear Age: Sorting Out What's New and What's Not

ECTS credits: 4

#### Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

decentral - Presentation, Analog, Group work group grade (40%)

Examination time: Term time

decentral - Written work, Digital, Individual work individual grade (40%)

Examination time: Term time

decentral - Active participation, Analog, Individual work individual grade (20%)

Examination time: Term time

#### Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[7.383.1.00 The Second Nuclear Age: Sorting Out What's New and What's Not](#) -- English -- [Davis James Warren](#)

#### Course information

#### Course prerequisites

This is an advanced International Relations Course. Students need not have already studied IR but if they have not, they may need to do additional reading to understand the theoretical and empirical context of the course.

#### Learning objectives

- Students will acquire a solid foundation in the most important debates surrounding the importance of nuclear weapons for international politics and states' security, including the fundamentals of deterrence theory, arms control and nuclear proliferation.
- Students will be able to analyze and evaluate the likely effects on international security of current developments in the areas of nuclear proliferation and nuclear weapons technology.

#### Course content

The issue of nuclear weapons largely has been since the end of the East/West Confrontation that dominated international relations during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. However, a series of recent events, including the threat posed by the nuclear ambitions of Iran and North Korea, Russian threats of nuclear escalation in its war against Ukraine, the growth of China's nuclear arsenal, and American nuclear modernization, have given rise to fears of a new arms race and perhaps nuclear war. Some suggest we have entered a "second nuclear age." Current debates and political statements about nuclear strategy suggest that many key lessons learned in the "first nuclear age" may have been forgotten.

This course aims to evaluate the new nuclear challenges in light of earlier understandings of the relationship between nuclear weapons and states' security. Students will learn how nuclear strategy and policy-making evolved during the Cold War and discuss whether and how this knowledge is relevant for today's world.

#### Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

The course will be conducted as a seminar with discussions and presentations by students.

Each session will cover a particular topic:

1. Chronology and jargon of nuclear strategy
2. Early Strategists
3. Early Debates



4. What are Nuclear Weapons Good For?
5. Command and Control
6. Nuclear Crises in the Cold War
7. Nuclear Weapons in Global Security: More is better vs. more will be worse
8. Nuclear Proliferation
9. Non-Proliferation / Disarmament
10. Proliferation / Non-Proliferation cases
11. A New Era of Counterforce?
12. Contemporary Strategic Debates- NATO, EU, Russia, China

## Course literature

Required readings will be made available to the extent possible online via StudyNet and in a reader available for purchase from the Skriptenkommission.

## Additional course information

Weekly attendance in this class is required. Absences in excess of one session will only be excused because of documented illness or military service. Do not ask for an excused absence because of scheduling conflicts with other classes, exams, presentations, exchange programs, club events, etc. It is the student's responsibility to plan his or her semester in a way that allows for seminar attendance and participation.

## Examination information

### Examination sub part/s

#### 1. Examination sub part (1/3)

##### Examination modalities

Examination type	Presentation
Responsible for organisation	decentral
Examination form	Oral examination
Examination mode	Analog
Time of examination	Term time
Examination execution	Asynchronous
Examination location	Off Campus
Grading type	Group work group grade
Weighting	40%
Duration	--

##### Examination languages

Question language: English  
Answer language: English

##### Remark

--

##### Examination-aid rule

Free aids provision

Basically, students are free to choose aids. Any restrictions are defined by the faculty members in charge of the examination under supplementary aids.

##### Supplementary aids

Each student will be expected to prepare a presentation for one week's topic based on the assigned readings. Depending on the



size of the class, the presentation will either be an individual or group presentation, with the entire group receiving the same grade. A guide to good presentations will be made available on Canvas and discussed in the first session.

---

## 2. Examination sub part (2/3)

### Examination modalities

Examination type	Written work
Responsible for organisation	decentral
Examination form	Written work
Examination mode	Digital
Time of examination	Term time
Examination execution	Asynchronous
Examination location	Off Campus
Grading type	Individual work individual grade
Weighting	40%
Duration	--

### Examination languages

Question language: English  
Answer language: English

### Remark

--

### Examination-aid rule

Free aids provision

Basically, students are free to choose aids. Any restrictions are defined by the faculty members in charge of the examination under supplementary aids.

### Supplementary aids

Each student will prepare a research or policy paper not to exceed 4,000 words on a topic of their own choice. Guidelines for writing a good paper will be made available via Canvas and discussed in class. The deadline for submission of the paper is January 14, 2024.

---

## 3. Examination sub part (3/3)

### Examination modalities

Examination type	Active participation
Responsible for organisation	decentral
Examination form	Oral examination
Examination mode	Analog
Time of examination	Term time
Examination execution	Synchronous
Examination location	On Campus
Grading type	Individual work individual grade
Weighting	20%
Duration	--

### Examination languages

Question language: English  
Answer language: English

### Remark

--



## Examination-aid rule

### Free aids provision

Basically, students are free to choose aids. Any restrictions are defined by the faculty members in charge of the examination under supplementary aids.

### Supplementary aids

Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the week's topic based on the readings and the presentation.

---

## Examination content

### Presentation:

Each student will be expected to prepare and present the readings for one week and to guide class discussion. A good presentation not only recapitulates the main arguments in the readings, but identifies the contentious issues/open questions in order to facilitate a critical discussion in class.

### Term-paper:

Students will be required to write a term-paper on a subject related to the course. Papers should not exceed 5,000 words and will be due two weeks after the end of classes. While there is no single template, a good term paper might critically engage with one of the readings or debate, extend an argument to a new case or probe the validity of received wisdom in light of current developments.

## Examination relevant literature

The **presentations** are based on the readings from the syllabus. The syllabus is available at the start of the course.

Literature for the **term-paper** will reflect the student's choice of topic.



## Please note

Please note that only this fact sheet and the examination schedule published at the time of bidding are binding and takes precedence over other information, such as information on StudyNet (Canvas), on lecturers' websites and information in lectures etc.

Any references and links to third-party content within the fact sheet are only of a supplementary, informative nature and lie outside the area of responsibility of the University of St.Gallen.

Documents and materials are only relevant for central examinations if they are available by the end of the lecture period (CW51) at the latest. In the case of centrally organised mid-term examinations, the documents and materials up to CW 42 are relevant for testing.

Binding nature of the fact sheets:

- Course information as well as examination date (organised centrally/decentrally) and form of examination: from bidding start in CW 34 (Thursday, 24 August 2023);
- Examination information (supplementary aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 42 (Monday, 16 October 2023);
- Examination information (supplementary aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 45 (Monday, 06 November 2023);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised examinations: two weeks before the end of the de-registration period in CW 45 (Monday, 06 November 2023).